

INDIANAPOLIS 46204-2798

ROOM 229 - STATE HOUSE TELEPHONE: 317/232-0890 FACSIMILE: 317/233-0858

March 20, 2007

Mr. Stephen Connolly, Director School Operations Bus Radio 160 Gould Street, Suite 201 Needham, MA 02494

Dear Mr. Connolly,

I am writing in response to your February 23, 2007 correspondence regarding design changes to Bus Radio and the release of a new model, Bus Radio 2.0.

Previously you contacted the State School Bus Committee seeking approval for the installation of Bus Radio on Indiana school and special purpose buses. At that time, the unit was to be installed under the first or second passenger seat, on the driver's side, in a component box attached to the seat frame assembly. Our concern was the component box underneath the seat frame will negate the leg (knee) protection zones specified in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222, School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection.

The new model, Bus Radio 2.0, uses wireless technology in lieu of cellular technology to operate and the unit is similar in size and shape to existing AM/FM radios currently in use on school and special purpose buses. The installation is a substitution of the existing AM/FM radio for the Bus Radio 2.0 unit.

Based on the new design and change in unit location, permission is granted for the installation of Bus Radio 2.0 subject to the following provisions:

- 1) On school and special purpose buses with an existing AM/FM radio, the Bus Radio 2.0 unit is to be substituted for the existing AM/FM radio;
- 2) It is prohibited for a school or special purpose bus to have both an AM /FM radio and Bus Radio 2.0 simultaneously because of the limited mounting locations in a driver compartment for both units and a driver's inability to safely operate each unit from a seat belted position. This restriction does not apply to a school two-way communication radio; and

3) On school and special purpose buses  $\underline{not}$  equipped with an AM / FM radio, the Bus Radio 2.0 unit is to be installed in the same location and manner as a radio supplied by the original equipment manufacturer of the school bus or special purpose bus.

Please feel free to contact me at 317-232-0891 or send email to <a href="mailto:pbaxter@doe.state.in.us">pbaxter@doe.state.in.us</a> should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Pete Baxter, Administrator State School Bus Committee

cc: State School Bus Committee